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'99 MALIBU LS - like new - only 17K miles
- one owner - local trade



'02 CHEVROLET LT - ex cab - 4X2 - loaded
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'03 CHEVROLET LWB - reg cab - AT-6
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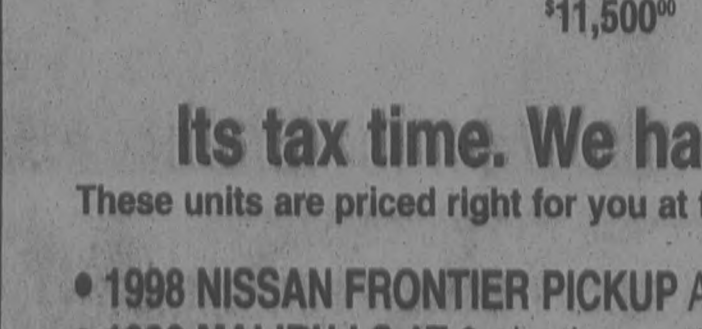
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'99 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS loaded
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'03 HONDA ACCORD EX - loaded w/leather
- sun roof - one owner

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Rodeo news...

INSIDE

Rugg-Cotton
announce March
wedding plans

INSIDE

Kinston's Mandi
Loupe named
volleyball all-star

The Elba Clipper

Volume 107, Number 36

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, February 19, 2004

1 Section, 12 Pages

County Commission hears ElderCare Initiative proposal

by Linda Hodge, Editor

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, the Coffee County Commission continued its recessed meeting from Monday, Feb. 9, to hear a presentation regarding The ElderCare Initiative.

Making the presentation for the Southern Alabama Regional Council on Aging (SARCOA) was Robert Crowder, and he found many Coffee County seniors interested in the initiative as nearly 100 people filled the community room.

Crowder said the initiative was created to mainly help those most frail in the elderly community. At present date, he said Coffee County alone has 955 people age 85 or older. This population increased 50.9 percent from 1990 to the year 2000.

According to Crowder, it is estimated the number of seniors will more than double by the year 2030.

"The demand for services will put a burden on everybody," he said.

Coffee County's senior population also includes 8,826 people age 60+ and 3,059 people age 75+.

"With the ElderCare Initiative, we can provide the needed services to the thousands in our area who need them," said Crowder. "Our priority will be to serve the frail elderly and their caregivers. However, everyone will benefit

from knowing these services are available to benefit them when they or their loved one needs them."

All in all, he said the initiative will strive to help first the frail elderly and caregivers but also active seniors, home care and care management for frail seniors, senior centers, meal expansions and other elder services.

Upon the SARCOA board's approval of The ElderCare Initiative, Crowder said his job was to go to the counties his office serves and ask for a bill referendum for the legislature to approve.

He said the proposal the board asked him to present included an additional ad valorem tax of 3 mils. On a \$100,000 home with homestead exemption, he said this would equate to \$24 annually (7 cents per day or 46 cents per week).

Crowder said this tax could generate approximately \$570,000 annually for Coffee County and allow SARCOA to serve approximately 523 more seniors each year in the county.

Crowder said his office serves seven counties including Coffee, and last year alone received over 24,000 calls or walk-ins for the services it provides.

"When we provide services to someone and don't provide them to others, we're really deciding

Presented by the
Elba Chamber of Commerce
to discuss
Downtown Revitalization Ideas
for the City of Elba

Town Hall Meeting



Presented by the
Elba Chamber of Commerce
to discuss
Downtown Revitalization Ideas
for the City of Elba

Thursday, Feb. 19th - 7:00 p.m.
Elba High School Auditorium

All citizens encouraged to attend!!



JUST THE RIGHT FIT... Despite a week of dreary weather, the sun shined brightly last Friday morning, Feb. 13, as the City of Elba welcomed the opening of a new children's clothing store, Kids Unlimited. The store, located at 979 Hwy. 203, Elba, offers all sizes for boys and girls in famous brands at low prices. Before opening the doors for business last Friday morning, the Elba Chamber of Commerce helped owner Dinah Coppage celebrate the special occasion with an official ribbon cutting ceremony. Those present for the ribbon cutting included (from left): Kaye Whitworth - executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce, Future Little Miss Elba Annley Padgett, Wayne Lawford, Little Miss Elba Reagan Kelley, Sam Cooper, Lyndsay Lawford, Jimmy Harrison, Wanda Medley, Joan Dawkins, Joseph Coppage, Billy Coppage, Dinah Coppage - owner, Stacey Carter, pastor Mike Medley, Elba Mayor James Grimes, Brandy Dean, Doris Matthews, Tonya Jones, Mary McMillan, Miss Elba Anna Anderson, Jerice Davis and Herby McCall.

Some see doodles...Others see art

by Linda Hodge, Editor

When Coffee County resident Eddie Arnold began creating images with his chainsaw, he never imagined people would call him an artist, but that is exactly what has happened.

"This is just doodling for me," Arnold said. "I don't think it's anything I could make a living at. I just don't think there's a market for it."

At least that's what he thought before someone approached him recently and asked if they could buy a piece of his art. Now, Arnold wonders if there are people out there that would actually buy his "doodles."

Regardless of this debate, one thing is for certain. Arnold demonstrates quite a talent as he takes a tree log and uses his chainsaw to carve the log into an Indian statue. Even more interesting, he's only been working with his new found hobby for a matter of weeks and already has six statues (three completed and three under construction).

"I've got a big long list of things I want to do," he said. "This is just one more thing to mark off that list."

Arnold said the whole process is simply a game of angles and realizing what the wood will and will not allow him to do.

When he begins work on a statue, Arnold said he pretty much has in mind what he wants to do, but it all depends on the tree itself.

"It is what it is," he said. "It's a piece of wood."

Arnold said it almost takes as long to stand the log up and balance it as it does to carve it out, and he said he has found that soft wood is not as rough on his chainsaw.

That's not to say he hasn't made some mistakes, though.

"I've blown some seals on the chainsaw," he said. "It's not really meant for this kind of work."

Arnold said he tried a different chainsaw for the carving projects, but he decided he could work better with his "ole faithful."

After all, he and his chainsaw have spent a lot of time together.

Sometimes back, Arnold built his own house using cedar, and he cut the wood with the same chainsaw he uses today for his artistic hobby.

"Me and that saw are intimate," he said.

In carving the Indian statues, Arnold said he starts out big knocking the piece of wood into a block shape. Then, he begins finessing the project.

"You could spend as much time as you want on one," he said. "All I'm looking for is proportions...a silhouette."

Originally, Arnold said he began this hobby wanting to do a cigar Indian, and although he

hasn't created that cigar Indian yet, he has been able to find a unique form for each creation. He even has one Indian he jokingly says was part of the "Battle at Wounded Knee" because it has a cut (rather mis-cut) on the knee.

As he continues to increase his collection, Arnold remains modest in saying he's not an artist. However, he does smile a bit when someone stares in awe at the pieces of wood work.

"It bunnifuzzles me about how it bunnifuzzles people," he said. "I'm just a rough cut guy that's never been afraid to make a mistake. I'm just doodling."

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This Indian warrior greets visitors of the Arnold home, which Eddie also built with the assistance of his chainsaw.

NB Town Council gives nod for preliminary planning of firing range

by Linda Hodge, Editor

During its regular monthly meeting, the New Brockton Town Council gave its approval Monday, Feb. 9, to begin the planning stages of a new project to build a firing range for the town and county.

Mayor Charles Cole said the firing range will be covered under the town's liability insurance policy, and access to the range will be controlled by the New Brockton Police Department.

The range mostly will be used by New Brockton police officers and deputies with the

Coffee County Sheriff's Department, but it will be available for others to use as well.

New Brockton Police Chief Boyd Hartzog said having a firing range in New Brockton will benefit the town in that officers will not have to go out of town.

He said this will keep the officers available to answer calls, and the town will not have to pay officers mileage costs for having to go out of town to another firing range.

Cole suggested all the facts and figures be in place before proceeding with the project.

Hartzog said he already received the plans on how to build a range from the National Rifle Association, and it is his desire to receive step by step approval from the council during the building process.

Council member Ron McMonagle offered a motion to begin the preliminary planning of the project with the understanding the council will continue to approve the project step by step in order to avoid getting caught up in costs.

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Council members discussed the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for

employees and decided it could not be afforded at this time.

The recommendation not to approve the COLA for employees came from the mayor following a discussion, regarding finances.

Council member Judy Stuckey asked if the council could revisit the idea if town finances improve within the next few months, and the mayor said it could.

With that, Stuckey offered a motion not to approve the COLA for employees at this time but left open the option to

revisit the idea if finances improve.

His motion also passed by a unanimous vote of the council.

Once again, the town's walking trail received attention as council members discussed what to do about the area around the ball fields.

The town's grant writer, Lenwood Herron, could not be at the Monday evening meeting; therefore, council members chose to table the discussion.

Please See TOWN, Page 2

Financial news remains good for Elba schools

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City School Board continues to hear positive financial reports from Superintendent Danny Weeks as he reviewed the school system's financial statement with board members last Tuesday evening.

"It looks real good right now," he said.

However the reports only reflect current financial health with state funds not being cut. A sizable cut in state funds could not be completely overcome by

the strong local supports area schools receive.

The cash reserves for the Elba school system reached \$969,381.47 by the end of January. School officials report a safe minimum for cash reserves should be in excess of \$1 million each month for the system to be considered "in good financial shape."

In the short meeting, board members also heard Weeks report that in the governor's budget proposal for the next year there is a line item increase of \$27 million for the reading initiative program in grades K-3 only.

All school staff and administrators who hadn't been previously fingerprinted were scheduled for that on February 13th. This is being funded by the state department of education.

In response to questions about the recent resignation of the head football coach, Weeks told board members he hoped to start advertising the vacancy "maybe in March."

Area Happenings

THE COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION will meet Monday, Feb. 23, at 9 a.m. in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton.

THE ELBA PUBLIC LIBRARY is taking donations on two gift baskets to be given away to two lucky people on Monday, March 1. The baskets include a pair of binoculars, sticky notepads, pens and markers, highlighters, tape, and candy.

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

Watch out for deer along side the roadways. Saturday Heddy and yours truly were in Auburn for the Driggers/Mann wedding and of course the reception which followed. While the wedding was in the beautiful old Auburn Methodist Church chapel, the reception was in the fancy club house at the Robert Trent Jones golf course in Opelika. When we were leaving the reception just after dark, several of the young men cautioned us to "watch out for the deer." We said "OK," but kinda halfway thought they were trying to jerk an old man around. However it wasn't long before we encountered several grown deer grazing contentedly along the side of the road (and looking very well fed) in an upscale residential area, in spite of the missing rain. They just looked up and then continued with their eating. It made us be a bit more watchful (and slower) the couple of miles still to travel before getting to the main highway.

The Alabama legislature voted down a request by Governor Riley to adjourn and allow him to call a special session dealing with accountability in state government. That vote came as no surprise and has us wondering exactly why it came up at all, especially since both House and Senate leaders were telling the governor's folks, and the public, there were not enough votes to pass the resolution. The only answer is probably "politics."

While no one has said this, we have on our own formed an opinion on what is going on in Montgomery right now. Last year the legislators decided to give the governor free rein with his Amendment #1 bills and let the people speak. This year the opinion seems to be "we have had enough." Riley didn't bother to include legislative leaders in any wording for proposed bills, nor in crunching the new budget numbers. In fact he didn't get the budget recommendations to the lawmakers in time for them to start budget hearings as usual and before the legislature convened earlier this month. Governor Riley apparently structured a budget with "his folks," mostly all new to state government, and without any input from seasoned veterans of the legislative process. The list goes on and on. One might sum up Bob Riley's approach to running state government as "Idealistic but not Realistic." He must remember that regardless of the time he and his staff spend developing a dream budget, it still must be approved by two bodies of lawmakers with diverse personalities who in turn answer (eyeball to eyeball) to their little part of the millions of taxpayers in Alabama.

It is regrettable that the Opp High School boys basketball team will not be competing in the state tournaments this year. The story we are getting from state athletic association officials are that one student was suspended by the school administration for some rules infraction and several others protested by not showing up for the bus trip to play in a playoff game. That led to a forfeit and the ultimate disqualification from the championship game. Several thoughts come to mind but for whatever reason the students boycotted the game. Opp High School is paying the price. Plus those boys will never be able to tell war stories to their friends and/or children about what happened during their climb toward the championship. All they can ever say is that we got "fired" and quit.

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, Feb. 9, 2004, investigated the following incidents: three for theft of property, one for breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, one for possession of a controlled substance, one for possession of drug paraphernalia, one missing person, one for harassing communications, one for criminal mischief, one for a domestic dispute, one for harassment, one for fire and one burglary.

The following arrests were made: one for failure to appear. Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: two for no insurance, one for an expired tag, one for speeding, one for no driver's license and one for running a red light. Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:

MONDAY, FEB. 9 - River stage - 11.53 feet (6:42 a.m.); Prowler reported at 617 Mullins Circle (8:14 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 617 Mullins Circle (8:34 p.m.).

TUESDAY, FEB. 10 - River stage - 10.94 feet (6:42 a.m.); Missing adult reported from 1018 Martin Luther King Dr. (5:50 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11 - Coffee County EMS dispatched

Parker wins Rattlesnake Rodeo crown



Kinley Laine Parker, age 4, received the crown of 2004 Rattlesnake Rodeo Pageant Tiny Princess on Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Andalusia High School auditorium. Kinley is the daughter of Michael and Briley Parker of Jack. Her grandparents are Wendell and Paula Black, Initia Parker and Mickey Parker. During the upcoming 2004 Rattlesnake Rodeo (March 6 and 7), she will join the other queens in meeting the entertainment and being introduced to the crowd.

TOWN

(Continued from Page One)

McMonagle said the longer the council waits to make its decision the more the project is costing with the loss of materials. Instead of waiting until the town's next working session or March council meeting, he said he wanted to hold a special meeting to discuss the issue and make a final decision.

The council agreed to hold a special meeting Wednesday evening, Feb. 11, to discuss the walking trail with Herron and recreation board members.

McMonagle updated council members on the happenings with the New Brockton Senior Citizen Center and said the department recently formed an advisory council.

He said the advisory council recently approved a new rental policy for use of the senior citizen center, effectively immediately.

McMonagle said the center can be rented on Saturdays and Sundays at \$50 per day. It can be rented Monday - Friday for

half a day (after 2:30 p.m.) for \$25.

McMonagle also said keys to the center will not be issued to the renter until the day of the event, therefore, those renting for a Saturday or Sunday will have to pick up the keys at the New Brockton Police Department on the day of the event.

In other business, the council: Approved a motion reappointing Tim Adams and Rodger Harrison and appointing Rodney Hawkins as members of the recreation board. Also, appointed Joe Simmons and Tracy Whittaker as associate members of the recreation board.

Approved a motion changing the voting hours for municipal elections. The new hours will be 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Approved a motion to renew the medical services contract with Enterprise Rescue under the same terms as the previous year.

THURSDAY, FEB. 12 - River stage - 10.35 feet (6:02 a.m.).

FRIDAY, FEB. 13 - River stage - 13.31 feet (6:22 a.m.); Disturbance reported on Reese Ave. (8:31 a.m.); Disturbance reported on Reese Ave. (12:58 p.m.); Report of a gun being discharged on Reynolds St. (11:04 p.m.).

SATURDAY, FEB. 14 - River stage - 12.72 feet (6:00 a.m.); Disturbance reported at 1115 Cuyton St. (7:04 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 825 Washington Ave. (6:01 p.m.); Burglary (not in progress) reported at a residence on Smith Ave. (6:15 p.m.); Elba Fire Department dispatched to a trailer fire at 702 County Rd. 401 (10:33 p.m.).

SUNDAY, FEB. 15 - River stage - 12.92 feet (6:00 a.m.); Domestic disturbance reported in progress at 1152 Neil Grantham Dr. (12:40 p.m.); Theft reported at 1133 Neil Grantham Dr. (12:56 p.m.).

ELDER

(Continued from Page One)

who lives or dies," he said.

At the conclusion of Crowder's presentation, commission chairman Robert Stephens asked those in attendance who were in favor of the additional tax for the ElderCare Initiative to stand up, and every person in the room stood.

Stephens then explained that before a bill could be brought before the people to vote, the commission must pass a resolution; therefore, he suggested the commission confer with Representative Terry Spicer and Senator Jimmy Holley to work on the resolution to ensure the proper wording is used.

"When that many people say they want this program, there's nothing we can do but help you get it," commissioner Ernest Brooks said. "Don't be afraid to ask your friends and neighbors when this comes on the ballot to vote for it."

Commissioner Doug Dalrymple expressed concern that the proposal for the initiative would not help enough people.

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(Continued from Page One)

* Approved a motion disallowing leave for part-time personnel and preventing full-time personnel from carrying over more than 12 days sick leave annually.

NB Walking Trail issue addressed

Members of the New Brockton Town Council met Wednesday evening, Feb. 11, for a special meeting concerning the town's walking trail. Mayor Charles Cole said the council decided not to put the trail where it had been laid out. Instead, he said the council agreed for a cost estimate on what it will take to place the trail in the spot originally planned behind the ball fields.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In the Feb. 12th edition of the Elba Clipper, I read with interest the article where our Representative Terry Spicer was reporting accountability is foremost on the minds of most House members this year. He reports that the House of Representatives passed several accountability bills out of House committees the first day of their meeting. If you haven't read the article on accountability you should. It seems they are headed in the right direction.

We are all very proud of our young representative and have all the confidence in the world in him as we do in our Senator Holley. I support both of them.

Holley and Spicer will tell you, as we all agree that accountability must come first in state government. I am sure they both will agree with us when we say that accountability reforms must come first because it is the people of this state that our elected officials are supposed to serve, not the state employees union, not the state Alabama Education Association or any other special interest group.

It's common knowledge that non-state employees who work for non-state agency special interest groups, such as the A.E.A. and the Alabama State Employees Union among others, have been allowed to join the state Retirement Drop Program. Some estimate the State of Alabama DROP retirement program pension fund could cost the state more than \$100 million per year. We taxpayers just can't afford such lavish spending.

CARD OF THANKS

GREG HODGES FAMILY

The family of GREG HODGES would like to express their gratitude and appreciation to all that have extended their sympathies during this time of sorrow. We would especially like to thank those who contributed the lovely food in his memory. Special thanks also goes to Ralph and Mary Barnett, Edith Bryan and family, Bradford Health Services, The Hayes, Stokes and Mauldin families and Wallace and Earlene Rushing.

The love that was expressed for our family during this time will always be remembered. Thank you all.

2-19-11c

A LETTER OF LOVE AND GRATITUDE

We would like to take a minute to express our deepest heartfelt thank you to everyone in the Elba and Jack area for their love and support in the recent gospel singing and au-

tion benefit given in our behalf. We were very blessed and humbled by the generous way that people of this area gave of their time, money and goods to help us. A very special thanks to all especially Chief Ronnie Whitworth, The Elba Police Dept., Sister Janet Wysocki, Rev. and Mrs. Ron Stallard, Bro. and Sis. Tim and Tina Mann, Rev. J.E. Wesley, Rev. and Mrs. Roy Turner, Bro. Derrick Snellgrove, a young man after God's own heart, Bro. & Sis. Rhett Snellgrove, WZTZ Radio, Church of God of Elba, Church of God of Prophecy, Elba Vanderbilt Holiness, also The Singing Miracles and those special young people of Master's Call, and the many businesses in Elba who donated or gave money.

God bless each and everyone of you. Words cannot express our love for you all. We will never forget your love, prayers and generosity. God bless you always.

Buford Roberts & Family 9-11p

It is reported that Mr. Joe

Reed, the number two man of the Alabama Education Association, is getting \$18,281 set aside each month for his DROP benefit and will receive a lump sum payment of \$1,096,860 from the State of Alabama.

The DROP program is not just a cushy financial windfall for many education or state employees where they can stockpile retirement checks while continuing to work, but an outrageous skimming of the taxpayers of Alabama by special interest groups.

We know that our senator and representative can't fix this all by themselves, but we are depending on them to start that small wave that could turn into a title wave so the message will go out far and wide all across Alabama. Accountability must come first in state government.

Jack Parker Elba, AL

Obituaries

LENA LOUISE FARRIS

Mrs. Lena Louise (Kendrick) Farris, age 88, a lifelong resident of Elba, Ala., died Feb. 11, 2004 at Flowers Hospital in Dothan, Ala.

Funeral services were held Feb. 15, 2004, from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba with Rev. Elbert Smith officiating. Burial followed in Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, Elba, with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Mrs. Farris was preceded in death by her husband, Welton E. Farris, a son, James E. Farris, grandchildren, Russell Knowles, Jamie Knowles, Jimmy Farris and a great grandson, Nathan Hall.

Survivors include five daughters: Janatha (Tom) Pugh, Union Springs, Ala.; Sarah (Basil) Williamson, Chamblee, Ga.; Mary (Richard) Heiss, LaVista, Neb.; Roseland (Eddie) Knowles, Samson, Ala.; Johnnie Sue (David) Stewart,

Leander, Texas; 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

The Farris family requests contributions be made to the American Cancer Society, 1810 Montgomery Highway, Dothan, AL 36303.

Survivors include her husband, James W. Baker, Dozier, two children: Janet (Keith) Marbut, Elba, AL; Phil (Susan) Baker, Pike Road, AL; two sisters: Elcie Kilcrease and Wilma (Horace) Fowler, both of Brantley, AL; two brothers: Willie (June) Taylor, Luverne, AL; Mickey (Joy) Taylor, Troy, AL; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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CHURCH & AREA NEWS

Ozark-Troy District Mid-Year Reports meeting planned February 21 at Greater Bethel Church A.M.E.

Presiding Elder Willis N. Huggins has announced the Ozark-Troy District Mid-Year Reports meeting and worship services to be held at Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church in Brundidge at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 21. Reverend Elsie Copes, Pastor of

Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church in Elba, will bring the morning message. An organizational meeting of the Ozark-Troy Lay Organization will be held immediately following morning services. All Ozark-Troy members are encouraged to be present. For more information on the

mid-year meeting, please contact Elder Huggins at 445-4040. For information on the Lay Organization meeting, please call Franklin Simmons, President, South Conference Lay Organization at 393-3827.

Heart 2 Heart Women's Ministry of First Baptist Church Enterprise to hold conference

Due to possible jungle entanglements that may have kept ladies from previously registering for the "It's A Jungle Out There" women's conference at the First Baptist Church of Enterprise scheduled on Friday Evening from 6-9 and Saturday from 8:30 - 2:30, the registration has been extended through Wednesday Feb. 18. Call 393-5683 (393-LOVE) and confirm registration with Michelle.

Marlene Renner, keynote speaker and author of *The Elephant In My Living Room* will be speaking Friday evening on extending grace and love to those you are in contact with

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Ruritan Club announces

arrival of new shipment of

"Cross Trails Remembered"

The Kinston Ruritan Club announces the arrival of a new shipment of Cross Trails Remembered - A History of Kinston and The Greater Kinston Community.

The book was copyrighted in 1998 and was reprinted in 1999. Repeated requests for additional copies prompted the Ruritan Club to order a third printing. Books are now available by contacting David Baker, club treasurer, at (334) 565-3073.

Cinde Lucas to be in concert at Shiloh Baptist Church

Christian singer and songwriter, Cinde Lucas will be in concert at Shiloh Baptist Church in Elba on February 21, 2004 at 7 p.m.

Kevin Sharp Concert to be held in New Brockton

Available now are seats with NO DINNER at the Kevin Sharp concert on March 5, 2004. New Brockton Farm Center. Concert starts at 7:00. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. Call Dia Jones, 389-2203 for more information and how to get tickets.

Deadline For Church News Is Monday!

ROUND & ABOUT WITH ERIA 897-2006

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 20: 1-20
*****THINKING OF YOU AND PRAYING FOR YOU**
 Nettie Ruth Hogan, Rev. J.R. Parks, Ruth Belcher, Mattie Belcher, William Cooper, Glarene Jones, Mary Alice Blue, Lovie Hooks, Lena Sims, Evelyn Brown, Patricia Chapman

*****BLACK HISTORY MONTH: February 04** Dipped in chocolate, bronzed with elegance, enameled with grace, toasted with beauty. My Lord, she is a black woman!

Yosef Ben-Jochannan, historian
*****FEBRUARY BIRTH-DAYS**
 William (Willie) English - Feb. 8, Velma Lee Whitfield - Feb. 15, Velma Horstead - Feb. 15, Neal Rogers - Feb. 16, John "Bud" Waters - Feb. 17, In memory of Llaya Kelly - Feb. 18, Alfred Purvis - Feb. 19, Ron Christopher Hooks - Feb. 20 (In memory of) Monica Henderson - Feb. 21

*****Mrs. Georgia Germany**
 Elba visited Eria Lindsey Belcher and family recently.

*****The Griffith Family** will be in concert Saturday night, Feb. 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the Indian Hills Church of God, Hwy. 82 West in Prattville, AL. Admission is free.

For more information call (334) 207-0255.
*****2nd ANNUAL SESSION** of the Mulberry District Laymen's Convention to be held at the Mulberry District Association Building, Elba March 12-13, 2004.

SURPRISE PRE-BIRTH-DAY DINNER - Saturday, January 30, 2004 the children and grandchildren of Eria Lindsey Belcher, Elba, surprised her with a birthday dinner (Birth date - Feb. 2) in the Fellowship Hall of Rocky Head MB Church, Elba.

Guests attending were: Tonya Smith, Jason & Mason Gulley, La Ray Williams, Anthony and Wesley Kelly, Kimberly Wesley, Maria Duncan, Lydia Tiffney, Brandon and Jana and Caleb, Ernestine Kelly and Curtis Kelly, Connie Moody and Braxton, Wiley Brooks, Juanita, De'Nard and Re'Nita, Ernestine, Evelyn and Lynsey Manning, J and Evelyn Belcher, Groveland T.L. and Caleb, Marcus Kelly & Alan Belcher, Milton Belcher, KiKi and

Warren Belcher, D.J. Belcher and Deshaun, all of Montgomery. Mary Alice Hooks, Kenderlyn Belcher, Estella Hooks, Rev. and Mrs. Willie Peterson, Rev. and Mrs. John M. Bryant, Dorothy Richardson, Nettie Ruth Hogan, Olene Barry, Ann Hogan, all of Enterprise, Annie Pearl Lucinda and Cathryn Carpenter, Melissa Kelly, Montgomery, AL; Theotis Johnson and Otis, Tusculmbia, Timothy, Rajah and Stefan Caldwell, Rev. Robert Edwards, Opp; Estella Williams, Virginia Rogers, Lisa Caldwell, Patti Culver, Mr. and Mrs. James Florence, Suzette Harlan, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Lee, Enterprise; Tyrone, Margo Winston Jr. and Isaac Kelly, Alesia Williams, Robert Corbitt, Marcus Colvin and Edmund Provitt, Montgomery; and Eria Belcher-honoree.

Today is a good day! Be grateful.

Eria

Damascus Baptist Church to hold Chicken/Fish Dinner

Damascus Baptist Church, 774 County Road 547, Elba, is having a fund raising (donations only) fish or chicken dinner on Saturday, February 29, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The meals may be picked up at that time or can be eaten in the church fellowship hall. All donations for the meals will go to the church's Children's Playground Fund. You may phone 894-9622 for additional information.

Elba Church of God Benefit Barbecue is Saturday, Feb. 21

The Elba Church of God is having a benefit Barbecue this Saturday, February 21st. Serving will begin at 11:00 AM. Pick up or deliveries call to order 897-2989 or 897-1593. Proceeds go to the benevolence fund for community use.

www.elbachurch.com

New Books available at the Elba Public Library

CHRISTIAN FICTION

Copeland, Lori—Patience Hatcher, Robin Lee—catching Kate
 Morris, Gilbert—The Gate of Heaven
 Peterson, Tracie—Land of my Heart

LARGE PRINT FICTION

Where's my Hero?
 Baxter, Mary Lynn—Pulse Points
 Sala, Sharon—Out of the Dark

FICTION

Bradford, Barbara Taylor—Emma's Secret
 Braun, Lilian Jackson—The Cat Who Talked Turkey
 Carter, Jimmy—Hornet's Nest
 Cussler, Clive—Trojan Odyssey
 Delinsky, Barbara—The Passions of Chelsea Kane
 Grisham, John—The Last Juror
 Krentz, Jayne Ann—Truth or Dare
 Meltzer, Brad—The Zero Game
 Picher, Robin—A Risk Worth Taking
 Robb, J. D.—Divided in Death
 Stone, Katherine—Another Man's Son

NONFICTION

Jeremiah, David—Life Wide Open
 Meyer, Joyce—Battlefield of the Mind

REQUIRES DEPOSIT

Peterson's Ultimate Math
 Practical Math Success

ABRIDGED BOOKS ON TAPE

Le Carre, John—Absolute Friends
 McBain, Ed—The Frigidus Bandersnatch
 McCullough, David—Mornings on Horseback
 Michaels, Fern—Crown Jewel Straub, Peter—Lost Boy, Lost Girl

UNABRIDGED BOOKS ON TAPE

Braun, Lilian Jackson—The Cat Who Talked Turkey

LIFESTYLES & MISCELLANEOUS

Sweetheart Pageant to be held February 28 at Z.C. High School Auditorium

The Relay for Life Team at Jack in a Box Daycare is sponsoring a Sweetheart Pageant on February 28, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Zion Chapel High School. All proceeds go to

the American Cancer Society. Sunday dress only, ages 0-18. An entry fee will be charged. For more information contact Pam Berry 897-2692

Miss Opp Saddle Club Queen Contest to be held March 12 & 13

The Miss Opp Saddle Club Queen Contest will be held March 12 & 13 in Opp. This will apply to ages 0-25 years old. An entry fee will be charged. For more information call 493-6587 or 493-6889.

Applications may be picked up in Elba, or in Elba at Rusty's Feed and Seed or in Opp at T.J.'s Western Supply and Opp Coop.

The Southeast Alabama Beekeepers Association to meet March 11

The Southeast Alabama Beekeepers Association will hold its monthly meeting on the 11th of March 2004 at the Coffee County Farm Center. For more information please call Elizabeth Whitaker at 334-894-2077 or Charles Jester at 334-308-2724

NEW ARRIVAL

SHELBY BROOKE WEEKS

Wyndi is a 1997 graduate of Zion Chapel High School and a 1998 graduate of MacArthur State Technical College with a Barbering degree. Wyndi is now self-employed in Enterprise, Alabama.

Chad is a 1994 graduate of Enterprise High School. He is employed with Cotton's Heating and Cooling in Jack, Alabama. The wedding will be held at Zion Chapel Baptist Church on March 13, 2004.

All friends and relatives are invited to attend.

Deans List students named at University of Alabama

A total of 3,475 students enrolled during the fall 2003 term at The University of Alabama made the Dean's List with academic records of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) or above, or the President's List with academic records of 4.0.

The Dean's List and President's Lists recognized

full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course.

The fall 2003 lists included the following area students: Stephanie Sasser, Elba and Rachel Carroll, New Brockton.

The following students were inducted into the New Brockton High School Junior Beta Club

an 85 overall average and uphold high behavioral standards.

The following students were inducted: Al Andrews, Rachel Bennett, David Davidson, Chelsea Dempsey, Brittany Eubanks, Kayla Farnon, Maranda Foust, Andrew Fuller, Amy Hill, Ashley Horton, Charlie Kilcrease, Alex Lee, Brandon Lee, Erica Locklin, Anthony Nevel, Jessica Parrish, Kendall Persin, Anna Beth Sawyer, Chelsea Stant, David Stinson and Vanessa Stuckey.

Following the ceremony, there was a reception held for the students and their parents in the auditorium.

NEW ARRIVAL

TAYLOR LEIGH WILLIAMS

Jason and Belinda Williams of New Brockton announce the birth of their daughter, Taylor Leigh Williams, born January 15, 2004 at the Medical Center in Enterprise. At birth she weighed 8 lbs. and 13 ozs. and was 21 inches in length.

Grandparents are Myrtle Lee Hudson and the late Joe Lee Hudson of Elba, Gordon Williams of Enterprise and Rita Williams of Elba. Great grandparents are Royce and Marie Williams of Las Cruces, New Mexico, the late Mr. and Mrs. Zaff Adkinson of New Brockton, the late Mr. and Mrs. Ecker Williams of Elba, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hudson of Opp.



Dallas Brass

Coffee County Arts Alliance presents the Dallas Brass in Enterprise Friday, February 20

The Coffee County Arts Alliance continues its 10th Anniversary Season Friday evening, Feb. 20, with a performance from the Dallas Brass at 7:30 p.m. at the Enterprise High School auditorium.

Since its founding in 1983, by Michael Levine, the Dallas Brass has become one of America's foremost musical ensembles. The group has established a unique blend of traditional brass instruments with a full complement of drums and percussion, which creates a performing entity of extraordinary range and musical challenges.

The Dallas Brass repertoire includes classical masterpieces, Dixieland, swing, Broadway, Hollywood and patriotic music.

According to Levine, "a Dallas Brass concert is intended for the entire family. Our ideal audience has a range in ages 5 to 95. Our goal is to entertain and enrich by playing great music, while showing our audience how much we enjoy what we do."

In addition to their solo engagements, the Dallas Brass also appears with symphony orchestras nationwide. Symphonic credits include the Cincinnati Pops conducted by

Ench Kinzel, New York Pops conducted by Skitch Henderson and the Philly Pops conducted by Peter Nero.

The Dallas Brass has performed at Carnegie Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and has toured overseas to Europe and the Far East.

The ensemble has released five recordings and has a strong dedication to working with young musicians.

Michael Levine is the director and plays the trombone. Brian Neal and Jose Sibaja accompany on the trumpet, Christ Castellanos on the horn, Deanna Swoboda on the tuba and Daniel Hosteler on the drums and percussion.

Individual tickets for this performance can be purchased in Elba at The Jewel Box, in Enterprise at David's West Gate Beauty Salon or The Fraternity, in Fort Rucker at the ITR Soldier Service Center or in Dothan at Norheim's On Main.

Ticket prices will increase the night of the performance which is made possible by Sawyer Surgery Clinic and a grant from The Alabama State Council on the Arts.

Hardware Seeding Giveaway is scheduled for Saturday February 21

The Treasure Forest Association will conduct a Hardware Seeding Giveaway Saturday, Feb. 21, beginning at 9 a.m. at the office of Time Limited Forestry of Elba.

Time Limited Forestry is located at 2045 County Rd. 364 (1/2 mile on right past the Coffee County Lake entrance).

For more information, call Ted Vignola at 897-5948 or Mike Bailey at 735-5468. A variety of tree seedlings will be given away.

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IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN

ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 7:00 p.m.
 Web Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

BASIN BAPTIST CHURCH
 Louie Reynolds - Interim
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 7:00 p.m.
 Web Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 Elsie Phillips-Copes, Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 7:00 p.m.
 Web Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
 Darrell Caldwell, Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 7:00 p.m.
 Web Bible Class: 6:30 p.m.

BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
 Tom Senn, Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 7:00 p.m.
 Web Prayer Service: 6:30 p.m.

BROOKLYN BAPTIST CHURCH
 Robert Davis, Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 7:00 p.m.

CHESTNUT GROVE METHODIST CHURCH
 Rev. Marsha Baxter
 Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
 2nd & 4th Sundays: 9:00 a.m.
 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays: 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 2nd & 4th Sundays: 10:00 a.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
 E. H. Hill, Minister
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays: 11:00 a.m.

DAMASCUS BAPTIST CHURCH
 Rev. Ron V. McLean
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 7:00 p.m.
 Web Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

DORCAS BAPTIST CHURCH
 Pastor Don Grantham
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 7:00 p.m.
 Prayer Meeting: Wed., 7:00 p.m.

EANON BAPTIST CHURCH
 Bernard Strickland, Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 7:00 p.m.
 Web Service: 6:15 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Jim Gunnells, Minister
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 7:00 p.m.
 Web Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF GOD
 Ron Stallard, Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 7:00 p.m.
 Web Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY
 J. E. Wesley, Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Sunday Afternoon: 5:30 p.m.
 Web Service: 7:00 p.m.

ELBA DELIVERANCE TABERNACLE
 Allen Richards, Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 7:00 p.m.
 Web Service: 7:00 p.m.

ELBA IN ASSEMBLY OF GOD
 Pastor Rev. Roy Davis
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 6:00 p.m.
 Web Service: 7:00 p.m.

ELBA IN BAPTIST CHURCH
 Pastor Rev. Roger Miller
 Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 6:00 p.m.
 Web Service: 6:30 p.m.

ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Rev. John I. Baxter, Pastor
 Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 6:00 p.m.
 Web Bible Study: 6:00 p.m.

ELBA ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
 Levell Martin, Pastor
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Service: 6:00 p.m.

FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH
 Pastor
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Service: 6:00 p.m.
 Web Prayer Service: 7:30 p.m.

FATH CHAPEL COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Ralph Medley Jr. Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Service: 5:00 p.m.
 Web Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

IN ASSEMBLY OF GOD - KINSTON
 Danny Bradshaw, Pastor
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 7:00 p.m.
 Web Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

FRIENDSHIP HOLINESS
 Ray Stinson, Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Sunday Evening: 6:00 p.m.
 Web Service: 7:00 p.m.

GODS POWER HOUSE - EVANGELISTIC CHURCH
 Overseers - Bro Billy Berry
 Sun. Service: 6:00 p.m.
 Sat. Service: 10:00 a.m.
 Sun. Service: 11:00 a.m.

GREATER NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
 Willie L. Peterson, Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.

HARRIS TEMPLE COGIC
 W. K. Ellison, Pastor
 Sunday School: 11:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Web Service: 7:00 p.m.

HAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Rev. John I. Baxter, Pastor
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 6:00 p.m.

MAW HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
 Shirley Ellis, Pastor
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
 Evening Service: 6:00 p.m.
 Web Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
 Dr. Tony Dye, Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Service: 6:00 p.m.
 Web Prayer Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH
 Rick Hayes, Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Service: 6:00 p.m.

INNOVATION BAPTIST CHURCH
 Gary Winstead, Pastor
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Web Prayer Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
 Web Service: 7:00 p.m.

JACK ASSEMBLY OF GOD
 Bro. Ashley Faulk-Pastor
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Service: 6:00 p.m.
 Web Prayer Service: 7:15 p.m.

LIBERTY CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Greg Haney, Minister
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 6:00 p.m.
 Evening Service: 5:00 p.m.

LIBERTY'S WAY CHURCH
 Rev. Charles K. Jones, Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Sunday Evening: 6:00 p.m.
 Web Service: 7:00 p.m.

MT. CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 J. R. Parks, Pastor
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 1st & 3rd Sundays: 7:00 p.m.

MT. GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH
 Fred Fowler, Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.

NEW BAPTIST CHURCH
 Rev. Wayne Webster
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Service: 6:00 p.m.
 Web Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

NEW BROCKTON METHODIST CHURCH
 Betty Morris, Pastor
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 6:00 p.m.
 Web Service: 7:00 p.m.

NEW CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH
 Rev. Elbert Smith, Pastor
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Bible Study: 5:00 p.m.
 Evening Worship: 6:00 p.m.
 Web Prayer Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

NEW EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH
 Denise Delmain - Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 5:30 p.m.
 Web Prayer Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH
 Ray Layton, Pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 6:00 p.m.
 Web Prayer Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

NEW HAVEN ASSEMBLY OF GOD - CHURCH
 Ray Giles-Minister
 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 5:00 p.m.
 Web Prayer Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH
 Rev. Joe Farris, Pastor
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Service: 6:00 p.m.
 Web Prayer Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

MUSTARD SEED FOUNDATION
 Mary Seay
 Sunday Morning Service: 10:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 Web Night Service: 8:00 p.m.

NEW ABUNDANT LIFE DEL.
 Herman & Linda Williams, Pastors
 Sunday: 10:00 a.m.
 Wed. Evening: 7:30 p.m.

NEW PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
 Loreal Flowers, Minister
 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 11:30 a.m.
 2nd & 4th Sundays: 11:30 a.m.

OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
 Nathaniel Fleming, Pastor
 2nd & 4

SPORTS

Views from....

The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Girl Scout cookies arrived last week and around the Mularz house the hardest thing to do was not trying to deliver the 65 boxes that Melanie sold, but to not open some of the boxes and eat someone else's cookies. She did get a few extra boxes just in case someone needed more. However, I think we took care of most of the extras, and by the end of the week were out of the cookie business. Oh yea, my favorite is still the Samoas!

FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH....

*** The Elba Tigers defeated Straughn twice during the regular season and were big favorites to get past their area rivals in last week's area tournament and move on to sub-region play, but the Tigers learned a valuable lesson that when the tournament opens records mean nothing as they were upset in opening round action and ended the season with a 14-11 record. Elba came out flat against Straughn and then got flattened in the opening two quarters as Straughn ran away and went in at the half with a shocking 42-16 lead. The Tigers did rally in the second half and got as close as four points in the fourth quarter, but could never overcome the huge first half deficit and made an early exit from the post-season party. The season ending loss was a major disappointment for the Tigers and their fans; however, the Tigers will return a host of players next season and maybe if the players will rededicate themselves and leave their personalities in the dressing room they can accomplish big things and make a run at the region tournament. The move to 2A will create some obvious changes, and maybe the players will also make the changes needed to become consistent winners on the court.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers butted heads with highly-rated Straughn for the third time this season and for the third time battled until the final horn before coming out on the losing end on the scoreboard. The Lady Tigers pulled ahead late in the first half and opened up a seven-point advantage in the third quarter, but once again seemed to run out of gas late in the game and watched as Straughn rallied for the win. Elba will have to reload next season after losing its top two scorers in Ayonna Proctor and Tunisia Thigpen. However, the real key to the Lady Tigers success next season will be to find some players that can come off the bench and provide a rest for the starters. Elba's starters gave it all they had every time they took the court, but were dead tired by the end of the game due to a lack of rest and it took its toll in all eleven losses. With 12 of 14 players back next season, the Lady Tigers should be able to solve that problem and be a contender.

*** The basketball season is still alive and well down in Kinston, where the Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs both advanced from area tournament play and will return to the court this week in sub-region action. The Bulldogs continued their late-season surge and rolled past Arton and Houston County to add the area tournament title to their regular season championship. Kinston has now won 13 of its last 15 games after a disastrous 2-8 start, and the Bulldogs are a very confident bunch heading into this week's match-up against St. Jude. The Lady Bulldogs placed second in their area tournament and while their 6-16 record may not scare anyone, the Lady Bulldogs played hard all season and should consider their berth in sub-region as a true accomplishment. Kinston's girls lost some key players early due to injuries and had a few others not come out for the team, but they never made any excuses and just kept on working. There can be little doubt that the biggest surprise of the 2003-04 high school basketball season has taken place at Kinston High School. Great job and good luck!

*** Auburn met with the NCAA last week to discuss its alleged violations in the men's basketball program, and no matter how Auburn comes out in the process, at least the Auburn officials came out fighting and stood up to the NCAA in denying many of the accusations. Back when Alabama faced the NCAA regarding football violations, the Bama officials were scared to death because of "death penalty" threats released by NCAA officials, and the Alabama officials simply bent over and took a swift kick in the rear end. The NCAA has long ago gone from being an organization that looked out for the best interest of its member schools to an organization that fears no one and rarely allows due process for its members when problems do arise. If not for the member schools there would be no NCAA, and it is long past time that members regroup and stop letting the tail wag the dog!

*** Elba's head football coaching vacancy is still the hot topic around Elba and South Alabama and from unconfirmed reports over twenty coaches have already either applied or expressed an interest in the job, which has not even been listed as officially open. There is no doubt the Elba football job is just as attractive as ever, and I wish the officials at Elba would go ahead, bite the bullet and make plans to bring in a coach as soon as possible.

*** The Alabama High School Athletic Association's Legislative Council will vote this month on eleven proposals sent in by its member schools, and among the proposals is one that would allow high schools to play eleven football games each year during the regular season. The idea behind the extra game is the fact that most schools across the state are playing a preseason jamboree game already, and by allowing the extra game it would allow teams to add a rival that might not be on the schedule now because of having to play region opponents. I agree that most schools are already playing eleven games, and also agree that the extra game would help the schools increase revenue for the sport. The other proposals involve spring basketball practice, making the baseball playoffs a "best of three" series in all rounds, and the abolishment of the fifty-percent rule that states not over fifty percent of a regular season school team can play on the same team during the off season. The results will be interesting.

**** In closing.... the Elba High baseball and softball teams will open their seasons next week, and maybe the rain will let up long enough to allow the teams to get in a few hours of practice before they hit the field in an actual contest. The softball team should be very competitive again this season, while the baseball team should be a hard hitting group that will be able to score runs in bunches. Get ready....it is time to head outdoors!

Wanted - Manager for Coffee County Fishing Lake

Duties include permit sales, grounds maintenance, and management of lake. Manager must live at the lake in State-approved housing. Investment required. Application and information are available from: Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, 64 N. Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130, or call (334) 242-3471.

PLEASE REPLY BY MARCH 3RD, 2004



ELBA'S MATTHEW CURRAN (4) applies pressure to an opponent during recent action. Curran scored 13 points last week in Elba's season ending loss to Straughn.

(Photo by John Wallace - Andalusia Star/News)



ELBA'S MARCHELLO REED (22) shoots over two defenders. Reed scored 12 points last week in the Tigers' area tournament loss to Straughn.

(Photo by John Wallace - Andalusia Star/News)

Upset by Straughn

Tigers fall in opening round 68-61

The Elba Tigers saw their season come to an unexpected end Thursday night in the opening round of the Class 3A, Area 2 Basketball Tournament when they were upset by the Straughn Tigers 68-61, in Dothan.

The loss left the Tigers with a final record of 14-11, while Straughn moved into the tournament finals with a record of 17-12.

The Tigers swapped buckets with their area rivals early in the game and trailed only 3-2 with 6:09 remaining in the opening stanza after a short jumper by Matthew Curran, but Elba failed to score again for over four minutes and Straughn took advantage of the long scoring drought to go on a 14-0 run and opened up a big 17-2 lead with 3:05 left in the quarter.

Marchello Reed hit two free-throws with 1:54 left in the first quarter to snap the drought and cut the deficit to 17-4; however,

it took the Tigers almost three minutes to score again, and by the time Reed hit a free-throw with 6:36 remaining in the half Straughn had opened up a whopping 25-5 lead.

The Tigers continued their struggles in the second quarter and watched as Straughn turned Elba turnovers into easy baskets as Straughn extended its advantage to 33-10 with 3:59 still left in the half. LaRay Williams and Quinton Gavin scored to help Elba cut the lead to 33-14 with 3:08 remaining, but the Tigers scored only two points the remainder of the quarter and at intermission Elba found itself trailing 42-16.

Elba came out determined to cut into the Straughn lead in the third quarter, and did just that as the Tigers held Straughn scoreless for over five minutes and cut the lead to 42-27 with 3:03 left in the quarter. LaRay Williams and Marchello Reed

helped the Tigers chop the lead to 62-58 with 1:22 left to play, but the Tigers didn't score again until only 11 remained on the clock and the furious second half Elba rally fell short as Straughn held on and escaped with the 68-61 win.

Quinton Gavin scored 20 points to lead Elba, while Marchello Reed scored 12 and LaRay Williams scored 11. Garrett Windham scored 21 points to lead Straughn and Hunter Kinsaul added 10.

S 23 19 10 16 - 68
E 4 12 18 27 - 61

Straughn (68): Hunt 6, Kinsaul 10, Freeny 7, Armstrong 6, Rabren 6, Windham 21, Hattaway 4, Driver 8.
Elba (61): Guley 4, Williams 11, Gavin 20, Curran 13, Reed 12, Burks 1.

End season with 11-11 record

Lady Tigers ousted in opening round 61-53

The Elba Lady Tigers battled the third-ranked Straughn Lady Tigers Thursday night in the opening round of the Class 3A, Area 2 Basketball Tournament and for the third time this season watched as Straughn staged a fourth quarter rally to ease past Elba 61-53.

The loss left the Lady Tigers with a final record of 11-11, while Straughn advanced to the area finals with a record of 21-5.

Elba matched Straughn basket for basket in the opening stanza and sparked by two long three-pointers by LaFondra Thigpen and two buckets inside by Ashleigh Waddail trailed only 18-16 after one quarter of action.

The Lady Tigers managed only four baskets in the second stanza, however, two of the baskets were three-pointers by Ayonna Proctor and Tunisia Thigpen, and Elba connected on 7 of 8 free-throws to stage a rally and carried a 33-31 lead in at intermission.

A three-pointer by Tunisia Thigpen and a lay-up by LaFondra Thigpen enabled the Lady Tigers to open up a 38-31 lead with 6:32 left in the third quarter, but Elba failed to score again for four minutes and Straughn staged a rally of its own to cut the lead to 38-36 with 2:54 still left in the quarter. Ayonna Proctor hit a short jumper to give Elba a 40-36 advantage with 2:40 remaining and added a lay-up with 1:11 on the clock to put the Lady Tigers back on top 42-40, and after

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S 18 13 10 20 - 61
E 16 17 9 11 - 53

Straughn (61): Cochran 10, Bracewell 22, Daniels 4, Parker 4, Beasley 20, Stokes 1.
Elba (53): Magwood 1,

Proctor 14, L. Thigpen 9, T. Thigpen 14, Waddail 7, Reynolds 7.

YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL REGISTRATION BEGINS FEB. 23 IN ELBA
CALL: 897-6833 FOR MORE INFORMATION

SPORTS

To host sub-region playoff

Kinston Bulldogs win area tournament

The Kinston Bulldogs continued their late-season surge last week by posting two wins in the Class 1A, Area 3 Basketball Tournament to add the tournament championship to their regular season crown.

The wins improved the

Bulldogs record to 15-10 and moved Kinston into Sub-Region play on Friday night against the St. Jude Pirates, with the game set to tip off at 7:00 PM at the Bulldog gym.

Kinston opened the tournament on Thursday night with an

easy 75-50 win over the Arton Purple Cats. Jeremy Driver scored 20 points to lead the Bulldogs, while J.T. Wiggins added 18. Joseph Vanzandt led Arton with 16 points.

The Bulldogs exploded for 20

points in the final stanza on Saturday night to down Houston County 55-40 to claim the tournament title. Jeremy Driver scored 27 points to lead Kinston, while Tyvares Black led Houston County with 18.

Lady Bulldogs advance to sub-region playoffs

The Kinston Lady Bulldogs placed second in last week's Class 1A, Area 3 Basketball Tournament to earn a berth in this week's Sub-Region action.

The 16-16 Lady Bulldogs will travel to top-ranked Notulaga on Thursday night at 7:00 PM, with the winner gaining a spot in the Southeast Region Tournament.

Kinston began tourney play on Tuesday night by claiming a 51-39 win over Houston County. Casey Mack scored 18 points and pulled down 12

rebounds to lead the Lady Bulldogs, while Kaleigh Sanders added 12 points and Amber McCall scored 9 points and grabbed 13 rebounds.

The Lady Bulldogs fell behind by 17 points in the first half and saw a late rally fall short as they lost to Arton 52-40, in Friday night's tourney final. Ramsi Smith scored 13 points to lead Kinston, while Tasha Johnson led Arton with 18 points.

New Brockton Gamecocks fall in semifinals at area tournament

The New Brockton Gamecocks kept their season alive with an upset win over the Goshen Eagles in the opening round of last week's Class 2A, Area 4 Basketball Tournament, but then saw it come to an Abbott end in a semifinal loss to top-seeded G.W. Long as the Gamecocks closed out the season with a 5-20 record.

The Gamecocks battled Goshen last Tuesday night in the "play in" game of the five-team tournament and rallied from an eighth-quarter deficit to claim an exciting 53-42 win. A 10-0 run by the Gamecocks to end the third quarter helped New Brockton erase a 30-22 deficit and take a 32-30 advantage, and the Gamecocks then took charge in the final stanza to pull away and post the win.

Brett Parrish scored 17 points to lead New Brockton, while Rishawn Foster added 14 and Channon Stuckey and Brandon Owens scored 7 points, each. Amos Wilcox led Goshen with 18 points.

New Brockton fell behind 20-10 after one quarter and never recovered in a 57-38 loss to the G.W. Long Rebels, in semifinal action on Thursday night. Channon Stuckey and Brett Parrish both scored 11 points to lead the Gamecocks, while Randy Eutsey scored 16 points to lead the Rebels.

Softball tourney set for March 6 in Elba

A men's Class C and D softball tournament will be held on March 6 at Hawkins-Williams Park, in Elba. For more information contact Keith Parker at 347-1751, Webb Watson 898-2305 or Brian Reed 898-7360.

There will be give aways throughout the weekend. Plus, you'll find plenty of great Parrelli equipment, clothing, videos, DVDs and much more available in the shopping area.

Because Parrelli Natural Horsemanship believes the future of horsemanship rests with today's young riders, 4-H, Pony Club and FFA members, and their adult leaders, are welcomed to the event at no charge. Please fax (on club letterhead) a list of youth members and adult leaders wishing to attend to 970-731-9763. Savvy Club members also get in free! For other audience members, the special price for two days is only \$20. Savvy Team demonstrations begin at approximately 9:00 a.m. both mornings and activities conclude at about 5:30 p.m. For more information and to purchase advance tickets, call 800/642-3335 or visit www.parrelli.com.

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A.H.S.A.A. Basketball The Tournament Trail...

Sub-Region Games:

BOYS - ALL GAMES ON FRIDAY (FEB. 20) AT 7:00 PM

Class 5A
Charles Henderson (17-8) at B.T. Washington (19-4)
Class 4A
Rehobeth (20-12) at Bullock County (12-8)
Opp (14-13) at Ashford (23-4)
Class 3A
Straughn (17-13) at Calhoun (20-8)
Central (12-14) at Abbeville (21-4)
Class 2A
Luverne (16-11) at Wicksburg (19-6)
Slocumb (10-13) at G.W. Long (23-4)
McIntosh (5-17) at Red Level (19-4)
Class 1A
St. Jude (16-12) at Kinston (15-10)

GIRLS - ALL GAMES THURSDAY (FEB. 19) AT 7:00

Class 5A
Greenville (12-11) at Eufaula (24-4)
Class 4A
Opp (13-12) at Ashford (16-11)
Headland (11-14) at Geneva (23-5)
Choctaw County (14-11) at Andalusia (19-6)
Class 3A
Straughn (20-8) at Barbour County (17-8)
Central (8-12) at Abbeville (22-4)
Class 2A
Slocumb (15-8) at Highland Home (20-5)
Luverne (10-12) at Samson (24-5)
Class 1A
Kinston (6-16) at Notulaga (24-3)
Loachapoka (11-14) at Arton (24-3)

Tree seedlings to be given away Feb. 21

The Treasure Forest Association will conduct a Hardwood Seedling Giveaway Saturday, Feb. 21, beginning at 9 a.m. at the office of Time Limited Forestry of Elba. Time Limited Forestry is located at 2045 County Rd. 364 (1/2 mile on right past the Coffee County Lake entrance). For more information, call Ted Vignola at 897-5948 or Mike Bailey at 735-5468. A variety of tree seedlings will be given away.

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SCHOOLS

Kinston High students learn how to keep the body healthy

Students at Kinston High School enjoyed a presentation by guest speaker Mr. Fred Dickerson on Jan. 14.

Mr. Dickerson, a representative of the University of Birmingham, spoke and gave a video presentation on the importance of keeping the body

healthy. He presented students with free pamphlets, pencils, pins and various other items.

Mr. Dickerson's message was well received by the students. Hopefully, students at KHS will be more conscious of what they put into their bodies and the effects those substances may have on them.

FAX SERVICE
Available at
The Elba Clipper!

Lady Dawgs continue to enjoy successful season

The Kinston Lady Dawgs won big against the Houston County Lions in the area tour-

ney last week. They were led in points by Casey Mack with 18 followed

by Kaleigh Sanders, 12, and Amber McCall, 9. The Bulldogs were also led in rebounds by Amber McCall with 13, Casey Mack, 12, and Ramsi Smith, 7.

The final score was 51-39.

The Lady Bulldogs played again Friday night, Feb. 13, in the Area Tourney Championship in Arton against the Arton Purple Cats.



Kinston Schools
BULLDOG NEWS
Sponsor:
Nodi Simmons

KHS student selected as 2004 North/South Volleyball All Star

Mandi Loupe was selected to play in the 2004 North/South All Star volleyball game this July during All-Star Sports Week in Montgomery.

Mandi was one of 12 juniors in the South to be selected to play in this game. The players will range from 1A-6A.

Also, Janie Wiggins was selected as a coach for the South All Star team.

She is excited about the idea of having the opportunity to coach a group of girls with such ability.



Mandi Loupe

Kindergarten class excited about reading

The students in Mrs. Sherri Weeks' kindergarten class are reading short stories at school and at home. The students are all so excited to be READING!!

The students also are learning about MONEY!! They are learning the value of a penny, a nickel and a dime. They are learning to count to 100 by 1's, 5's and 10's, as well.

Love was in the air for Valentine's Day, and the students were all excited about the candy grams and the Valentine's Party! Everyone wore red on Friday, Feb. 13, for the Valentine's Day party.



Coffee County Schools Menu February 23 - 27, 2004

BREAKFAST	LUNCH
Monday - Pancakes, Ham Slice, Syrup, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Monday - Pepperoni Pizza, Chicken Party Sandwich, English Peas and Carrots, Hashbrowns, Fruit, Milk
Tuesday - Breakfast Pizza, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Tuesday - Meat Loaf, Turkey & Noodle, Potato Salad, Steamed Carrots, Crackers, Fruit, Milk
Wednesday - Sausage Biscuit, Jelly/Syrup, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Wednesday - Chicken Nuggets, Pork B-B-Q Sandwich, Cole Slaw, Cream Potatoes, Rolls, Fruit, Milk
Thursday - Pop Tarts, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Thursday - Smoothie w/ Meat Sauce, Pizza, Garden Salad, Corn on the Cob, Crackers, Fruit, Milk
Friday - Donuts, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Friday - Turkey Roast, Baked Ham, Turnips, Sweet Potatoes, Cornbread, Jello, Cup, Fruit, Milk

Kinston Bulldogs clinch area championship

The Kinston basketball season is winding down now. The varsity boys have clinched the area championship and will host the area tournament.

After stumbling in the early parts of the season with a 1-6 record, the Bulldogs have rolled off a win streak that spanned to nine games and more than three weeks and now sit at 12-9.

At fan appreciation night, the varsity team put on a show to the tune of 71-25. In that game, Jeremy Driver led the attack with 15 points followed by Josh Reeves (43) and Shawn Brantley (11). Shawn Miller and Chase Williams both tacked on 8 apiece.

The won the area in a game that came down to the wire but pulled it off against Houston County with a shot from Shawn B. with the clock ticking away the final 11 seconds.

Houston County got off one last shot, but it was partially blocked by J.T. Wiggins.

Josh Reeves grabbed the defensive board as the buzzer sounded.

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Enterprise High School
7:30 pm

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Children - \$5.00
Seniors - \$7.50
Students - \$5.00

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POLICE PATROLMAN

The City of Elba, Alabama is accepting applications for the position of Police Patrolman.

Minimum Qualifications:

- High school graduate or GED.
- Must possess a valid Alabama Drivers License.
- Must possess a good driving record.
- Must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
- Must meet the minimum standards for law enforcement officers as established by Alabama Law. Applicants that are certified by the Alabama Peace Officer's Standards and Training Commission are preferred.
- All applicants are subject to drug screening and background check.

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- Participation in State Retirement
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Application Instructions:
Applications can be obtained by contacting Elba Police Department at 304 Simmons Street, Elba, Alabama between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Closing Date:
Applications will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on the 26th day of March, 2004.

The City of Elba is an Equal Opportunity Employer

SCHOOLS

EHS welcomes new intern

by Brittany Cooper

The Elba High School Band Program recently received a new intern. Her name is Miss Laura Ann Cheshier.

Miss Cheshier graduated from Lake Placid High School in Lake Placid, Fla. She attends Troy State University in Troy. She is majoring in music education.

After graduating, she plans on becoming a band director.

Miss Cheshier is the only female music intern graduating from Troy State University this semester. She is interested in music and playing the flute.

Congratulations, Miss Cheshier and good luck in the future!



Laura Ann Cheshier



Tiger Tales

Editors:
Brittany Cooper
& Christy Eubanks

Dates to Remember:

by Christy Eubanks
March 2 - Read Across America Celebration

March 4 - Black and Gold Show
March 5 - Third Nine Weeks Break
March 15 - Grandparent's Day
March 15 - PTO at 6 p.m.
March 22-26 - Spring Break

EOCC News

Tole and Decorative Painting is such a popular special interest course.

Enterprise-Ozark Community College offers it each semester. For spring semester this course is scheduled for a second session on Thursdays, March 11-April 22 (excluding March 25), 6-9 p.m.

The registration deadline is March 4. As always this course provides instruction for beginners* and advanced painters. Painting will be done with acrylics on wood or metal.

Students will learn how to prepare a project to be painted, how to select proper tools and materials, and how to use appropriate brush strokes. There is a fee for this course. Students may bring their own supplies with them, or they may purchase supplies at the first class meeting.

There could be a broad range in the cost of supplies. If students have some supplies, the cost could be as low as \$30. If the student owns no supplies and needs to purchase everything, the cost could be as much as \$60. Students must be at least 12-years-old. The class is limited to 15. For more information call 337-2623, ext. 2234.

EHS Student Spotlight

by Meredith English

This week's student spotlight is Richard Wade Kindred.

Wade is the 15-year-old son of Richard W. and Dale Boswell Kindred. He lives with his mother here in Elba. Wade moved here from Germany, and he is currently in the ninth grade.

Wade's favorite subject in school is science, but outside of school he enjoys hunting, fishing, weight lifting and even marksmanship competitions. He is involved in the Junior Beta Club, Chi Alpha Mu, football, and his church's youth group.

Wade has been honored with 4-H Awards in the photography and poster competition and has placed first in the Royal Rangers marksmanship competition.

Wade plans to graduate high



Wade Kindred

school with honors and to receive a football scholarship to Auburn University.

As you can see Wade is a very ambitious student. Congratulations and Good Luck Wade!!

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH, EDUCATION & LOCAL SCHOOLS!!!

Elba Elementary introduces the second semester SGA representatives

by Alex Allen

At the beginning of this year, two students were selected from each class to be EES Student Government Association Representatives.

One would serve his/her term

first semester, and the other would fulfill his/her obligation second semester. This year's elected SGA Representatives for second semester are listed below.

In the first grade, the reps are McKayla Shaw in Mrs.

Corder's class, Ty Stewart in Mrs. Rhoades' class, Tori Spann in Mrs. M. McCollough's class, Emilee Hudson in Mrs. Moseley's class and Abby Parrish in Mrs. Wise's class.

The second grade reps are

Anna Stokes in Mrs. Benbow's class, Jada McKenzie in Mrs. P. McCollough's class, Tyler Bobbitt in Mrs. Gibson's class and Ben Cash in Mrs. Mitchell's class.

The third grade reps are Megan Concanon in Mrs. Coleman's class, Brinley Williams in Mrs. Parrish's class, Jordan McDaniel in Mrs. Head's class and Mandi Mallory in Mrs. Harrison's class.

The fourth grade reps are Jamie Griggs in Mrs. Waddall's class, Chace Sauls in Mrs. Grimes' class, Thomas Cole in Mrs. Dye's class and Tyler Anderson in Mrs. Hutchison's class.

The fifth grade reps are Jesse White in Mrs. Wilson's class, Kristin Kelley in Mrs. Curtis' class, William Petty in Mrs. Johnson's class and Xavier Rogers in Mrs. Cardwell's class.

Finally, the sixth grade reps are Brianna Rogers in Mrs. Crowe's class, Keri Jones in Mrs. Smith's class and Janae Carnley in Mrs. Piland's class. Congratulations to this semester's SGA representatives.



EES Student Government Association Representatives (Second Semester)

April 22 recognized as Earth Day in state and country

April 22, 2004 is recognized as Earth Day throughout Alabama and the United States. During the month of April, many environmental organizations and schools will host Earth Month activities and programs to educate Alabama students and adults about the environment.

Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education, offers assistance to those organizations and schools that are planning an Earth Month Sponsorship Program.

Local coordinators may request up to \$250 to help with educational aspects of their Earth Month activity or program.

Applications can be obtained by contacting Elba Police Department at 304 Simmons Street, Elba, Alabama between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Closing Date: Applications will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on the 26th day of March, 2004.

Applications must be postmarked by February 27, 2004. Applications will be judged on a competitive basis. Visit the Legacy website, www.legacyenvd.org, to download an application and to view past recipients.

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Elba High School journalism staff conducts annual Elbala pageants

by Karrie Copeland

This year's Miss Elbala was full of "Blossoming Beauties."

Students in grades seven through twelve were allowed to vote on the girls they wanted to represent their class in the pageant while elementary girls paid an entry fee to participate.

Over 50 girls competed for the titles of Mini Miss, Little Miss, Junior Miss and Miss Elbala.

Marty Harrelson volunteered his services to decorate the stage for the pageant.

The night of the pageant, each girl waited patiently for her moment in the spotlight, and the results are as follows:

Miss Elbala: Anna Anderson
1st Place: Kendall Stinson
2nd Place: Kristin Barnes
Miss Congeniality: Shawanna Wright

Jr. Miss Elbala: Christina Bryant

1st Place: Shai Yelverton
2nd Place: Whitley Kilcrease
Jr. Miss Congeniality: Gucci Hudson

Little Miss Elbala: Brooke Weeks
1st Place: Kendra Silar
2nd Place: Correnda McGhee

Mini Miss Elbala: Emilee Hudson
1st Place: Venecia Magwood
2nd Place: Madelyn Kelley

All of the money raised from the pageant will be used to help in the making of the 2004 Elbala, the school yearbook. It will also go to help with other miscellaneous expenses and supplies the journalism staff may have.

The journalism staff thanks everyone for attending the pageant and for all the help and support received.

EES Student Spotlight

by Yonnie Procter

Name: Lecanna Janae Carnley

Nickname: Nae-Nae

Age: 12

Hobbies: Playing basketball and volleyball, shopping, being with family and friends and listening to music

Favorite Subject: Math

Favorite Movie: Lizzie McGuire Movie

Favorite Food: dumplings

Janae was sitting at her desk along with three other classmates, studying the Preamble when I first walked into her class to congratulate her on being this week's student spotlight.

Janae is the daughter of Janet and Leroy Carnley. She is the oldest of four children. Her younger siblings happen to all be boys who are Jake, Levi and Landon.

Janae is an A-B student and an active, young, athlete at Elba Elementary. She is treasurer of the Beta Club, a member of talent pool and SGA. She is also a trombone player in the sixth grade band.

Janae said she enjoys the



Janae Carnley

teacher, the students and the clubs most at Elba Elementary School, and Mrs. Crowe is her favorite teacher because she's sweet and explains everything.

When she grows up, Janae said, "I want to become a teacher because it seems cool, and a volleyball coach because she likes it a lot."

Janae is well on her way to becoming anything she dreams. Good luck and congratulations on being this week's EES Student Spotlight.



PIC OF THE WEEK (by Christy Eubanks)...I miss my friend.

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1 - 3 p.m.

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'03 LINCOLN TOWN CAR - ceramic white paint
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'02 FORD EXPLORER XLT - special **\$16,900**



'99 CHEVROLET TAHOE **\$13,500**



'01 GMC YUKON SLT - leather - loaded
 - great buy



'87 JEEP WRANGLER LAREDO
 - 4X4 - like new - completely restored - new engine with all paper work - must see - only **\$8,500**



'03 IMPALA SEDAN - AT-6 - under factory warranty - two to choose from - only **\$14,900**



'01 HONDA ACCORD EX - loaded - sunroof



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'02 CHEVROLET LT - tax cab - 4X2 - loaded
 - one owner - like new!



'03 CHEVROLET LWB - reg cab - AT-8
 - work truck pkg - only 14K miles - great buy



'02 CHEVROLET EX CAB 4 X 4
 - only 27,000 miles - local trade



'99 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS loaded
 with features - local trade



'03 TAURUS SES - power windows - power locks
 - tilt - cruise - CD player

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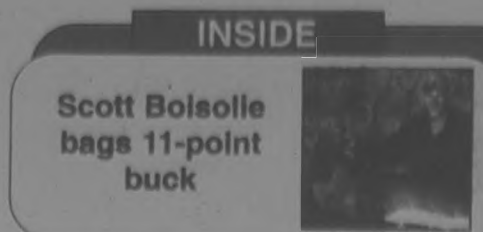
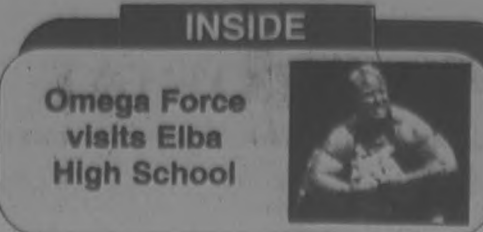
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The Elba Clipper

Volume 107, Number 37 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, February 26, 2004 1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts

Coffee County receives national award for elderly services

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission received excellent news this week when it received notice that Coffee County has been named the recipient of a national award.

The Elderly Volunteer Services in Coffee County was selected as a winner in the 2004 Acts of Caring Awards program for counties nationwide with a population of 100,000 and below.

Coffee County has a population of 43,615.

The awards program is carried out by the National Association of Counties (NACo) in partnership with the Retirement Solutions.

Tom Goodman, a representative of the NACo, said The Acts of Caring Awards recognize the

Elba City Council awards bid for sewer line extension

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Monday night the Elba City Council approved a \$109,654 low bid for a sewer line extension to Kelley Freeds.

J. P. Carter Construction Co., of Geneva, was the lowest of bidders. The other bids ranged up to \$138,311.

Mayor James Grimes told council members the firm has just completed a job in Elba and are well qualified for the project.

The City of Elba had received a \$93,500 state construction grant for the project and voted Monday night to take the \$16,154 balance from other city funds.

Police Chief R.W. Whitworth updated the council on his efforts to secure a replacement drug dog. He said the first dog, that was offered free to the city, didn't work out and was returned to the original owner as was originally agreed upon. A second dog has become available from a group in Tennessee. The cost of this animal is \$1,500. Whitworth told council members that money has been donated for this purchase and the \$1,500 will not come from the city.

The council approved the purchase of a government surplus ambulance at a cost of \$14,975. Grimes told council members

He also mentioned the state has not passed its budget yet; therefore, it would be difficult to make such a decision without knowing what the state is going to do in regards to budgeting.

With this said, Stephens offered a motion with a second from commissioner Jim Thompson to table the issue until the officials can come together with more unified thoughts.

"I would not agree to delay this and keep the senior citizens



'97 FORD F150 - reg cab - one owner - extra clean

allowing those families to keep their loved ones at home with them at night.

Another noted accomplishment of the county included its commitment to establishing senior citizen centers throughout the rural areas of the county.

Coffee County currently has

Life of C.F. "Neil" Grantham to be remembered during ceremony

March 1 marks 25th Anniversary of Coffee County Sheriff's death

by Linda Hodge, Editor

As the first day of March approaches, it remains a somber day in regards to Elba and Coffee County's history. It sig-

nifies the anniversary of the late Sheriff C. F. "Neil" Grantham's death.

March 1, 2004 will be the 25th Anniversary of Grantham's death, and a special ceremony has been planned to celebrate the life of the late Coffee County sheriff and Elba resident.

Family, friends, elected officials and other community residents will gather in front of the old Coffee County Jail in Elba at 6:30 a.m. Monday, March 1, for this solemn ceremony in which a wreath will be placed at the site of Grantham's brutal murder, and several speakers will be recognized.

Immediately following the ceremony, a reception will be held in honor of Grantham at the Elba Chamber of Commerce, located next to the old jail.

Grantham was shot in the early hours of Thursday, March 1, 1979, in front of the then Coffee County Jail in downtown Elba.

Three shots were fired into the late sheriff's body, and reports indicate, an autopsy determined any of the three shots would have proved fatal.

Arrested, charged and convicted of the murder was Billy Joe Magwood.

Magwood was tried and convicted for the murder in June of 1981. He was convicted of capital murder and was sentenced to die in the electric chair.

There were witnesses to the fatal shooting, and one deputy, the late Thomas Weeks, even exchanged gunfire with Magwood as he fled the scene.

Weeks was able to identify Magwood, and he was arrested

later that day by then Alabama State Trooper R. W. Whitworth, who now serves as police chief for the City of Elba.

Through the years, Magwood's case has remained tangled in the legal system with appeal after appeal being filed. The last recorded action took place April 23, 1997 when his attorney filed an appeal in the United States Middle District Court in Montgomery.

As of this date, the Middle District Court has not ruled on the appeal.

As family, friends and neighbors plan to gather Monday morning, March 1, to once again mourn the loss of the late sheriff, Magwood remains on death row at Holman Prison in Amore, Ala.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend Monday morning's ceremony and join the family of the late Sheriff C. F. "Neil" Grantham in celebrating and remembering his life.

Citizens show support for downtown revitalization during town hall meeting

The Elba Chamber of Commerce hosted a town hall meeting last Thursday evening, Feb. 19, at the Elba High School auditorium. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ideas for Elba's downtown revitalization plan. Cheryl Morgan (above), a representative of Auburn University, received input from the citizens regarding the things they view as symbolic of the community, gateways to the community, assets of the community, as well as, goals and dreams for the community. Morgan said this input will be beneficial as she develops a plan for Elba's downtown revitalization. She said the people of Elba have proven they are not willing to give up by overcoming past dilemmas, and this revitalization project is a real good opportunity to chart the town's future.

Services program of Coffee County will be presented its 2004 Acts of Caring Award at a luncheon ceremony Wednesday, April 21, at 1 p.m. on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Goodman said Alabama's U.S. Senators and Coffee County's member(s) in the

House of Representatives will be invited to this luncheon ceremony. He also encouraged the commission to contact its congressional delegation and encourage their attendance at the event where Coffee County will be recognized with this national award.

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Area Happenings

THE UNVEILING OF THE PEANUT BUTTER MONUMENT in New-Brocktown will be Saturday, Feb. 28, at 2:30 p.m. at the New Brocktown Town Park. The public is invited to attend.

THE ELBA PUBLIC LIBRARY is taking donations on two gift baskets to be given away to two lucky people on Monday, March 1. The baskets include a pair of binoculars, sticky notepads, pens and markers, highlighters, tape, and candy.

THE ANNUAL ELBA LIONS CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST will be Saturday, March 6, from 6-10 a.m. at the Senior Citizens Center (on the square).

THE COFFEE COUNTY LAKE will reopen Friday, March 12. The lake will be open from daylight to sunset and recently has been restocked with bream and catfish.

Dept. of Industrial Relations announces benefit possibility for former chip mill employees

The Alabama Department of Industrial Relations announced last week that former employees of Dixie Chips, Inc. in Evergreen and Brundidge, as well as former employees of Shuler Brothers Chip Mill in Opp, may be eligible for benefits under the federal Trade Act of 2002.

Dixie Chips closed last December and Shuler Brothers closed on December 31st.

The U. S. Department of Labor found that these workers, employed in producing wood chips, may have become unemployed as a result of increased imports. The petition covers periods of unemployment occurring on or after December 29, 2002, and before the termi-

nation date of January 23, 2006.

In order to receive Trade Readjustment Allowance benefits, workers must be enrolled in training eight weeks after the certification date or 16 weeks after their last qualifying separation.

The workers have also been certified for Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA). Under the ATAA program, employees who are 50 years of age and older, that obtain fulltime work within 26 weeks of their separation date from the affected employer, may receive a wage subsidy to help bridge the salary gap between their old and new job.